

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 28, 1999      LB 882

introduced) Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:      Mr. President, LB 882, introduced by the Business and Labor Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on March 8, referred to Business and Labor, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Vrtiska, to open on LB 882.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. LB 882 is the annual claims bill. It's representing claims against various state agencies that have been recommended for approval by the Business and Labor Committee. The bill also contains amounts that certain state agencies are seeking to write off and that the State Claims Board feels appropriate and they should receive permission to write off, and you have before you, on your desk, a copy of all of the claims that the committee dealt with and subsequently approved and sent for your consideration. If you look at the committee statement, you will see a brief summary of each of the claims that are contained in the bills. The majority of these claims involve state warrants that were never cashed and expire after one year. The total amount is slightly over \$1 million; is all paid from the General Fund. The largest claim is one made by the Nebraska Press Association, which is almost \$700,000, and most of you know this is because of the expenses incurred in the advertising of the amendments that were put on the ballot last year and, in fact, are a state expense but have to be paid through, through the claims process. This is to cover the cost of printing of those constitutional and initiatives that were placed on the ballot and for the elections in 1998. The dollar figure is higher than usual because the relatively high number of amendments and initiatives that we had last year. There will be a committee amendment that at least...and at least one other amendment to LB 882. If you have any questions about any of these claims that were sent to you, I'd be happy to answer any questions. I will indicate to you that the Appropriations Committee has, in fact, had knowledge of this and has considered it in...has considered these claims in their appropriations so it's not money that has to be in an A bill. With that, I'd answer any